



The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York- Pennsylvania - Rhode Island

**First RNE Chapter Meeting 2020-2021**  
**Friday, September 18, 2020**  
**1-4:30PM, Virtually via Zoom**

**Meeting Information/Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81609345487?pwd=SnZSTm5nWTBqZTErWE9Pc0Ztd1YwQT09>

**Meeting ID: 816 0934 5487 Passcode: 636122**

**2020-2021 RNE Executive Board**

Asuncion Cora, President

Elisa Garcia, Vice President

Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, Past President

Jessica Agudelo, Secretary

Manny Figueroa, Treasurer

Minutes by Jessica Agudelo

Attendees: 20

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Presentation of South Huntington Public Library by Georgina Rivas-Martinez  
Recipient of the 2020 Pura Belpré Award
  - [360 Tour](#)
2. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Executive Board
  - b. RNE Membership
3. [2019-2020 Annual Report](#): Adriana Blancarte-Hayward-reviewed goals and shared highlights including 4 membership meetings hosted, 2 virtual; Spanish Book Buzz held in January; 16th Annual Joint Mini Conference was held virtually and well received. Chapter members joined Reforma National President Kenny Garcia at Eric Carle Award presentation; participated at Feria Internacional del Libro.
4. Approval of Minutes: The [Minutes from 4th RNE Meeting 2019-2020](#) were unanimously approved with corrections. Motioned by Asuncion Cora, and seconded by Elizabeth Garcia.



The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York- Pennsylvania - Rhode Island

5. Treasurer's Report: Manny Figueroa-Review of reports. Noted the need to raise funds to build up scholarship fund.
  - a. [Profit and Loss Report FY 19-20](#):
  - b. [Treasurer's Report from 4/24/20-6/30/20](#):
  - c. [Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2020-9/18-2020](#): Correction needed for Total Expenses, should be (\$631.71).
  
6. [Presidential Plan](#) & [Proposed Budget](#): Asuncion Cora- Goals include engaging members, encouraging committee participation, and sharing resources for student members. Plan to host Book Buzz and Mini-Conference. Hope to feature a virtual library tour at every meeting. Increased use of social media to promote events/work by memberships. Submit highlights to [reformane@gmail.com](mailto:reformane@gmail.com) for promotion on RNE social media. Manny Figueroa motioned to approve, seconded by Teresa Tobin. Approved unanimously by membership.
  
7. [Committee Information/Updates/Sign-Up Here](#)
  - a. **Bylaws Committee**: Louis Muñoz, Chair- Committee considering amendments, codifying/clarifying EB membership on committees, and procedures in event of EB vacancy or removal of an officer. Referring to policies actuated by other REFORMA chapters and ethnic affiliates.
  - b. **Communications/Social Media Committee**: Asuncion Cora/Linda Caycedo-Goals include making website more useful & attractive. Encourage membership to reach out with content & corrections. Looking for input/committee volunteers to contribute to social media platforms. Hoping to promote members and their activities, repost NE events. Instagram help/expertise especially needed. Maria recommended using Hootsuite to sync posts.
  - c. **Election Committee**: Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, Chair-seeking a new VP for next cycle and a treasurer for NE executive board. Welcome Elisa Garcia as VP, Jessica Agudelo as secretary for the year. Membership is encouraged to nominate colleagues or yourself.
  - d. **Finance Committee**: Adriana Blancarte-Hayward-Reviewed/detailed budget with current President. Plan to review finances as necessary. Looking for volunteers as well.



The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York- Pennsylvania - Rhode Island

- e. **Fundraising Committee:** Asuncion Cora- have not met yet this year. Aiming for more online fundraising opportunities, possibility of selling branded merch at events. Focus is on fundraising online. To join or share ideas, please sign up.
- f. **Inter-Ethnic Affiliates Liaison Committee:** Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, Chair- Nothing to report.
- g. **Ismael Alicea Professional Development Committee:** Linda Caycedo- Looking for volunteers. Award consists of a \$600 check to attend Annual. Call for nominations/self-nominations will be made in January & begin to accept applications. Awardee selected by early March. Must be a member of Reforma. Info on the website, or email Linda, Susan or Elizabeth.
- h. **Judith Rivas Mini-Grant:** Tess Tobin- Offered every two years (last disbursed in 2019). \$500 stipend goes to librarian/Reforma member to support serving Latinx communities. Past awardee included “Latinos in Baseball” project to create a digital archive. Great opportunity for a special program. Acceptance of application begins in February, award announced in April.
- i. **Leadership Institute Committee:** Mary Marques, Chair: Plan to offer 4 online webinars, plus 1 big event in 2021. First webinar scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 11:30AM-12:30 PM. Email with invitation link forthcoming, broadcast vis Zoom + Youtube Live. “How to Engage with a Digital Community and Culture.” Volunteers needed for leadership institute, to join committee send email to [marquesm@freelibrary.org](mailto:marquesm@freelibrary.org).
- j. **Lillian Marrero Scholarship Committee:** Louis Muñoz/Manny Figueroa- Email will be sent to library schools in January. \$1K awarded to student in MLS degree program, award disbursed in Spring. Reminder that Reforma students membership is \$10, encourage students to join and apply for scholarship. Numerous applicants last year.
- k. **Membership Committee:** Elisa Garcia, Chair - 119 active members, hope to see numbers increase, members can help recruit & participate on committees. Hope to host recruitment events virtually. Encourage members to join committees and welcome suggestions for recruitment.
- l. **Spanish Book Buzz Committee:** Elisa Garcia/Jessica Agudelo, Co-Chairs- will be held virtually. Very similar to the summer Book Buzzes with



The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York- Pennsylvania - Rhode Island

the LA Chapter. Welcoming members to participate on the planning committee. Libbhy proposed partnering with the LA Chapter for January Book Buzz.

- m. **Teresa Mlawer Lifetime Achievement Award Committee:** Libbhy Romero, Chair-Award recently renamed in honor of Teresa Mlawer, great contributor to Spanish lit and great supporter of Reforma. Last year Tess Tobin was recognized. Many current members are eligible for award. Committee members include Jessica Agudelo, Louis Muñoz, and Manny Figueroa.

#### 8. New Business:

**ALA COUNCIL:** Louis Muñoz; Report on ALA Council. Considerations include how ALA is using money during this economically challenging year with decreased revenues. \$11M decrease in expected revenue. Council voted on estimated annual expenses for FY21. Structure of ALA also discussed, including representation, a steering committee on how to restructure, a proposal to eliminate ALA council and more transparency.

#### 9. Novedades:

Maria Cotto: Chair for RI Latino Books Month 2021. Booklist created for grades K-12, broken down to 4 categories in time for hispanic heritage month. Promote books written by Latinos for Latinos.

<http://www.rilatinoarts.org/LatinoBooksMonth.html>

Louis Muñoz/Manny Figueroa: Reforma National Convention VII scheduled for Nov. 4-7 2021, in Portland, OR. Steering committee is raising funds, event is costly. As members of Reforma we need to be supportive, and want people to get excited about it. Next year we will also be celebrating Reforma's 50th Anniversary.



**The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York- Pennsylvania - Rhode Island**

Adriana Blancarte-Hayward: Planning programs for Hispanic Heritage month; 3 programs, including collaboration with Bronx Library Center to host online music program featuring Sonido Costeno, end of september; Cookbook author/blogger Vero Cervera program. Will share dates when confirmed. Panel discussion, Latinx and Libros, inviting people from different perspectives, featuring RNE members Libbhy Romero and Vilma Alvarez, Roberto Lobato, and PRH editor Alexandra Torrealba. Moderator Rosalia Reyes, organizer of Feria Internacional del Libro NYC.

Linda Caycedo/Evelyn Muriel Cooper: Shared virtual tour created by Reference Department of El cuartito at Bronx Library Center featuring artwork by Olga Ayala. Please view and like!

[https://www.instagram.com/tv/CFK75X3JXyh/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet&fbclid=IwAR2Ed91BtdR6fuV4igjx1Py3h9D2DnCh1uErq\\_Gd9iq9Dx3cYwOugvt\\_OLo](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CFK75X3JXyh/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&fbclid=IwAR2Ed91BtdR6fuV4igjx1Py3h9D2DnCh1uErq_Gd9iq9Dx3cYwOugvt_OLo)

Tess Tobin: Suggested a Zoom presentation with ethnic affiliates to discuss our organizations to reach out to students.

Manny Figueroa: NYLA Ethnic Services Roundtable, Public library section created Combating Racism webinar series, Wednesdays at 2pm until October 21. First session topic: Community and Communication in the Dialogue on American Racism - Past, Present & Future

10. Presentation of Lillian Marrero Scholarship Award: Awarded to Tania Maria Marrero; highlighted her contribution to Joint Mini Conference. Words from Tania.
11. Group Photo
12. [Donations](#)

#### **Save the Date:**

- **First REFORMA Northeast Leadership Institute Webinar will be held on Saturday, October 3rd, from 12-1PM. Registration information can be found on the Leadership Institute [website](#).**
- **2nd Membership meeting will be held (virtually) on Friday, December 4th 1-4:30PM**
- **Spanish Book Buzz will be held virtually on Friday, January 15, 2021**



The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York- Pennsylvania - Rhode Island

Email [reformane@gmail.com](mailto:reformane@gmail.com)

**Meeting adjourned: 3:49 PM**

**Attendees:**

Asuncion Cora  
Elisa Garcia  
Adriana Blancarte-Hayward  
Manny Figueroa  
Jessica Agudelo  
Georgina Rivas  
Louis Muñoz  
Evelyn Muriel-Cooper  
Linda Caycedo  
Libbhy Romero  
Maria Cotto  
Susan Paredes  
Mary Marques  
Tania Rios  
Tiffany McCrae  
Tess Tobin  
Susan Paredes  
Elizabeth Garcia  
Loida Garcia Febo  
Gladys Cepeda